

# Immunization E-Letter

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## Immunization Program

2 N. Meridian St., 6A  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (800) 701-0704  
[immunize@isdh.in.gov](mailto:immunize@isdh.in.gov)

Dr. Joan Duwve  
*Medical Director*

Amanda Mizell  
*Director*

Sarah Murphy  
*Deputy Director*

Gary Rhyne  
*CDC Public Health  
Advisor*

Penny Lewis  
*CHIRP Project Manager*

April Bailey  
*Education & Training  
Coordinator*

Alex ThurdeKoos  
*Adolescent/Adult  
Coordinator*

## Hib Shortage Continues

By Dr. Duwve, Medical Director

As we approach one year without adequate supplies of Hib vaccine, we are faced with the possibility that there won't be enough single antigen Hib vaccine available to complete the primary series in some of our babies. *Haemophilus influenza type b*, or Hib, causes severe bacterial infections in infants and young children.

Before the introduction of the Hib vaccine, *Haemophilus influenza b* was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children younger than 5 years of age, killing 2-5 children per every 100 stricken, and causing neurologic or hearing impairment in 15% - 30% of the survivors.

Before the availability of the Hib vaccine, it was estimated that about 20,000 cases of invasive Hib disease occurred annually, with more than 60% of cases reported in children younger than 12 months of age.

Since licensure of the Hib vaccine, we have seen a 99% decrease in incidence of invasive *Haemophilus influenza type b*, a vaccine success story that should be celebrated.

**So what do we do now?** We know that if we don't complete the primary series of Hib in children who are under 12 months of age, we are leaving them susceptible to invasive Hib disease, long hospitalizations, and potentially devastating consequences.

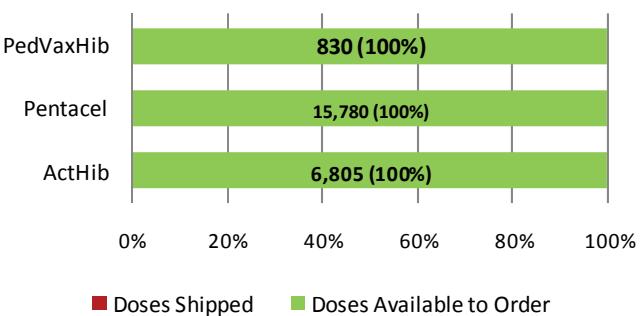
## VFC Vaccine Availability

CDC has advised us that, ActHib availability for February and March will be about 95% of the January availability; Information about April and beyond will be provided when available.

The CDC has acknowledged the difficulties this shortage has imposed on vaccine providers, and has made the following recommendations:

- Continue to complete the primary Hib series for all patients.
- If you do not have single antigen Hib vaccine, you may substitute any combination vaccine for Hib, provided that there are no contraindications to other components of the vaccine.
- Continue to defer the Hib booster given after 12 months of age until the vaccine supply has been reestablished for most children. Please note that immuno-compromised children, Native Alaskan or American Indian children, or other high risk children as defined by the CDC should continue to receive the booster dose.
- Use a reminder/recall system to track children who have had their Hib booster doses deferred.
- Surveillance of Hib cases is particularly important to monitor the impact of vaccine shortage. Therefore, any isolates of *Haemophilus influenza* from sterile sites should be submitted to the ISDH lab for serotyping.

## Hib Availability - January 2009



## Nonviable Vaccine Returns

### What Not to Return to McKesson

The following items should **NEVER** be returned to McKesson:

- Syringes that you filled yourself but did not use.
- Any used syringes with or without needles attached.
- Broken vials.
- Any multidose vial from which some doses have already been withdrawn.

The items listed above should be disposed of according to usual medical biosafety procedures, and according to immunization program's procedures.

### What Should Be Returned to McKesson

The following items should be returned to McKesson:

- Spoiled or expired product in its original vial or pre-filled syringe.
- Unused pre-filled syringes from manufacturers with an NDC printed on them.
- Unused Novartis Fluvirin pre-filled syringes with staked needles (NDC 66521-0111-01) are the ONLY items that can be returned with a needle. The needle should be capped and the syringes returned in their original packaging to the extent possible. (**Absolutely no other needle can be returned to McKesson.**)

Federal excise tax (FET) credits can only be processed for unopened vials and for unopened manufacturer pre-filled syringes. Returns of product other than these are not eligible for FET credit.

**Reminder:** These returns should be sent back to McKesson with a completed return form in the McKesson box with the preprinted return label, as well as submitting Returned/Wasted Vaccine form to ISDH.

## MedImmune FluMist® Replacement Program

VFC FluMist® that expires on or before January 30, 2009 can be returned to McKesson for exchange. ISDH will no longer be transferring FluMist® that expires in December.

For other requirements and directions for returning FluMist® to McKesson, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/med-instr-fm-508.doc](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/med-instr-fm-508.doc). See E-Newsletter Issue 293 for more information. Private stock is not eligible.

## VAERS - Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System

VAERS is a national vaccine safety surveillance program co-sponsored by the CDC and FDA. By monitoring adverse events that occur following immunization, VAERS can help identify important new safety concerns.

Anyone can submit a VAERS report, including doctors, nurses, medical assistants, vaccine manufacturers, and patients or their parent/guardian. VAERS encourages the reporting of any clinically significant adverse event that occurs after the administration of any vaccine licensed in the United States.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 requires that health care providers report certain vaccine reactions, including any event that is listed by the manufacturer as a contraindication to subsequent doses of a vaccine.

For more information on VAERS, including a table of the required reportable events and the online report form, please visit: <http://vaers.hhs.gov>

*This information has been adapted from the VAERS website.*

## Questions of the Week

- Q. We are giving the new rotavirus vaccine, Rotarix®, and we aren't sure how to enter it into CHIRP. Which option do we choose?
- A. Rotarix® is a monovalent vaccine, so when entering it into CHIRP, you would choose: *rotavirus, tmonovalent*.
- RotaTeq® is a pentavalent vaccine, so it is entered as: *rotavirus, pentavalent*.
- Q. What lot number needs to be recorded for Rotarix®?
- A. The lot number from the outer carton which is also the number on the packing slip is the only number that needs to be recorded.
- Q. How do I tell the difference between VFC and Private stock from Merck on the packing slip?
- A. On the Packing Slip in the right hand corner, the third line states Order Type.  
If it says Order Type: CD it is VFC vaccine.

Please continue to call with your vaccine-related questions or email us at [immunize@isdh.in.gov!](mailto:immunize@isdh.in.gov)

## Receiving Vaccine Orders in Cold Weather Care

With extremely low winter temperatures occurring, McKesson is taking precautions to ensure vaccine is not compromised due to freezing.

If your area of your state is experiencing or anticipates extreme temperatures **at or below 10°** for multiple days, please notify your AFIX field representative **IMMEDIATELY!**

ISDH will notify McKesson Specialty Customer Service as soon as possible to hold orders to your area.

### Check Orders Immediately!

To ensure that the Cold Chain is correctly maintained, providers must open vaccine packages **IMMEDIATELY** to check the temperature monitor and inspect the vaccine and the box contents.

If vaccines have been compromised or if temperature monitors are out of range, **providers must contact us at (800) 701-0704 within two hours of receipt of vaccine in the provider office.**

ISDH will be developing a new Cold Chain Failure Policy that will include this requirement.

If you receive your order outside your available delivery times, and have questions about the vaccine's viability, please contact us.

## Happy Holidays!

**The Indiana State Department of Health will be closed on Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26. We will return to the office on Monday, December 29.**

## Revised Communicable Disease Reporting Rule

Revised Communicable Disease Reporting Rule Effective December 12, 2008.

An E-Update containing information about the updated version will be sent out next week.

A direct link to the complete 2008 Communicable Disease Reporting Rule can be found at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) web site at [http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/comm\\_dis\\_rule.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/comm_dis_rule.pdf).

## CHIRP Tip

**NEVER** email the CHIRP Helpdesk or anyone else patient information including name and date of birth.

If you have a question that references a particular record, please use the SIIS/Patient ID number. This method is more accurate and secure.

We appreciate your help!

## Upcoming Events

**January 30, 2009; 9:30am - 11:30am (EST)**

### User Group Meeting

Columbus Learning Center  
4555 Central Ave, #2100  
Columbus, IN 47203

**January 30, 2009; 1:15pm - 3:00pm (EST)**

### Introduction to CHIRP Training Session

Columbus Learning Center  
4555 Central Ave, #2100  
Columbus, IN 47203  
*Registration required.*  
*Call (888) 227-4439 to register.*

## Reminder! Holiday Shipping Schedule

McKesson Specialty Distribution will not ship VFC vaccine orders during the following specified dates:  
**December 20-24 & January 1-3**

Merck has established the following shipment schedule for direct frozen vaccine shipments. This schedule is for Merck ONLY.

**December 22** Next day air or next day ground only for Tuesday delivery emergency only

**December 23** Only special requests for Next Day am delivery for Wednesday

**December 25** **Closed**

**December 26** No vaccines shipping

**December 29** Only special requests next day air or next day ground for Tuesday delivery

**December 30** No overnights - UPS closed  
12/31 and 1/1/09

**Dec 31—Jan 1** **Closed**

**January 2** No vaccines shipping

## Influenza Vaccinations Decline

New data from SDI shows that influenza vaccinations in physician offices is lower this season when compared to previous seasons.

SDI's VaccineTrack(TM) provides weekly tracking of vaccine administration in physicians' offices based on nationally projected data from electronic office medical claims.

VaccineTrack(TM) reports current utilization of injectable flu vaccine by patient and provider

demographics including medical specialty, patient age range and gender. Encounters can also be segmented by whether vaccine recipients fall into high health risk versus no health risk categories.

Providers are strongly encouraged to continue providing influenza vaccinations throughout the season. The flu season typically begins in the fall and does not peak until January or February most years, and can continue into the Spring.

## Influenza Vaccine Supply Availability

*Providers may submit orders for more doses of any currently available influenza vaccine.*

**Doses Shipped** refers to doses that have been processed by McKesson and shipped to providers.

**Doses Currently Available to Order** refers to doses that are currently available at the McKesson warehouse. Once the vaccine has been received at McKesson, the Immunization program staff will send the orders to McKesson for processing.

**Doses Purchased but Not Yet Available in Warehouse** refers to vaccine that has been purchased by ISDH but has not been shipped by the manufacturer to the McKesson warehouse.

\***Backorders** may reduce number of doses available to order.

*As of December 19, 2008*

